REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

OF

WALTON-LE-DALE.

For the Year 1897.

PRESTON:
Printed by C. W. WHITEHEAD, 125, Fishergate, & Avenham Street Mill.

1898.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

https://archive.org/details/b30231371

THE

Medical Officer's Report

FOR THE YEAR 1897.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

In laying my Annual Report for the year 1897 before you, I have taken care to make it as concise and explanatory as possible.

For the purpose of my calculation I have accepted the population of the township as being the same it was in the year 1896. No doubt there is a small increase, but nothing to very materially influence the figures one way or the other.

During the year there were 338 births and 213 deaths, giving a birth-rate for the year in each thousand of the population of 30·92, and a death-rate of 19·49. Of the births, 164 are males and 174 females. Of the deaths, 89 were males and 124 females. The birth-rate for the year only shows an increase of ·82, and looking at it for the past five years, only in 1893 does it give any appreciable difference, when it was 35·4. Not so in the case of the death-rate. Taking it for the past five years, I find in 1893 it was 20·84; in 1894, 15·19; in 1895, 20·76; in 1896, 14·36; and in the past year 19·49, or an

increase over the year 1896 of 5·13. This increase is seen in the deaths which occurred under five years ; in 1896 they were 66, whereas in 1897 they were 98. We must not become faint-hearted because of this increase, an increase which was brought about to a great extent by two diseases which are at all times most difficult to contend with, namely, measles and diarrhœa. It is interesting for a few minutes to look at the manner in which the infantile deaths fluctuate from year to year, such fluctuation arising from influences over which in many instances we have little or no control. In 1891 there were 124 ; in 1892, 81 ; in 1893, 99 ; in 1894, 71 ; in 1895, 102 ; in 1896, 66 ; and in 1897, 98.

Under one year old there were 71 deaths, one year and under five 27, five and under fifteen 3, fifteen and under twenty-five 11, twenty-five and under sixty-five 69, sixty-five and upwards 32 ; under the latter heading one was 66, one 67, three 68, three 70, two 71, three 72, two 73, two 74, one 75, three 78, one 79, two 80, two 81, one 82, one 84, one 86, two 87, and one 88.

The zymotic death-rate was considerably in excess of that of the year 1896, when there were 17 deaths, or a death-rate in each thousand of the population of 1·55, while in 1897 there were 35, or a death-rate of 3·20, or 16·45 per cent. of the total deaths. This death-rate was made up of the following diseases —Membranous croup 1, measles 9, whooping cough 1, diarrhœa 19, influenza 2, typhoid fever 1, puerperal fever 1, and erysipelas 1 ; twenty-nine of them occurred under five years old. The death from membranous croup took place in Hoghton Lane, that of typhoid fever in the Infectious Hospital, from puerperal fever in the New Road, Walton-le-Dale, that from erysipelas also in Walton-le-Dale ; five of those from measles in School Lane, three in Bamber Bridge, and one in Meany-gate, that from whooping cough in Lostock, nine of those from

diarrhœa occurred in School Lane, three in Bamber Bridge, one in Walton-le-Dale, five in Higher Walton, and one in Gregson Lane. One of the deaths from influenza took place in Bamber Bridge, the other in Walton-le-Dale.

Bamber Bridge and School Lane have occupied a very unenviable position, as, out of 35 deaths from the zymotic diseases I have mentioned, the large proportion of 21 deaths occurred in these two places. The combined population of both hardly amounts to half that of the entire township, so that only 14 deaths remain to be apportioned to the rest of the district.

In my report for the year 1896 I had only one death from diarrhœa to record; how marked the change in the past year, the deaths again going up to nineteen, the number they were in 1895. Seventeen of these occurred in infants under five years. It is literally impossible to guard a township against such attacks; we cannot possibly control those atmospheric influences which we know full well exercise such a prejudicial effect, once the disease is commenced, from whatever cause. An infant suffering from a relaxed condition of the bowels during the winter would cause little anxiety, but such an attack occurring during the summer or autumn months might easily lead to the most untoward result. Seventeen of these deaths took place during the months of August, September, and October.

The deaths from diseases of the respiratory organs were thirty-seven, or five less than in the year 1896; those from phthisis appear to be steadily decreasing from year to year.

Under the Infectious Diseases Notification Act, 1889, fifty-two cases were reported, or nine more than in the previous year, and shewing 4·75 infectious cases in each thousand

of the population. Twenty were cases of erysipelas, twenty-one typhoid fever, seven scarlet fever, two diphtheria, and two puerperal fever. Seven of the erysipelas cases occurred in Bamber Bridge, six in School Lane, four in Higher Walton, and three in Walton-le-Dale ; thirteen of the typhoid fever cases were in Bamber Bridge, one in School Lane, five in Higher Walton, one in Walton-le-Dale, and one in Lostock ; of the scarlatina cases, five occurred in Bamber Bridge, one in School Lane, and one in Lostock ; one case of diphtheria occurred in Bamber Bridge and one in Lostock, while one of the cases of puerperal fever occurred in Walton-le-Dale, the other in Higher Walton.

The cases of erysipelas were distributed over the township ; it was of the Idiopathic form, and cannot be looked upon as of a severe type, from the fact that only one death was caused by it. Be that as it may, its presence in the township would clearly indicate that there is still room for greater diligence in sanitary matters. The etiology of this disease is still shrouded to a great extent in obscurity, but all authorities, I believe, are agreed that a "Want of attention to hygienic conditions is the great predisposing cause."

At the beginning of the year, and for the first three months, the township was severely punished by an epidemic of measles. In saying township, it would be more correct to say Bamber Bridge and School Lane. It is a noteworthy fact that the village of Walton-le-Dale, although situated, if one might use the expression, between two fires—School Lane and Bamber Bridge on one side, and Preston on the other, in which places the disease was rife—almost wholly escaped. How so much to have been desired an issue should have come about is no easy matter to explain. Infection, one should have thought, must have been carried into the village by the mill hands, numbers of those living in Walton-le-Dale working in the mills

in School Lane, and a larger number of those working in Walton Mill come down from Preston. Suffice it to say Walton-le-Dale came out practically free from it. Because of the large number of cases in School Lane, I thought it judicious to close the school for a month. This is not one of the diseases you require to be notified, nor do I think such notification could be attended with any good results, owing to the want of a large area for isolation ; yet here is a disease highly infectious, running riot over the township, causing endless suffering, interfering with education, claiming large numbers of victims, and we are almost powerless to cope with it. Can nothing be done to stay it? Little or nothing, I fear, till parents wake up to the fact that it is a most dangerous disease, and one which must be treated promptly by isolation. In many cases, when a child has been pronounced as suffering from measles, it is treated with an utter want of consideration and medical care.

In the months of May and December quite sharp outbreaks of influenza occurred, causing two deaths. In my monthly report for May, I mentioned it was not of a severe character, but retained its former variations in the manner it affected different individuals, from its first appearance in the township some eight years ago ; cases of it were occasionally coming under observation.

Three cases of typhoid fever were admitted to the Infectious Hospital during the year, one of whom died after nine days. The three patients were 107 days under treatment, at an expense to the Council of £34 6s. 3d.

A number of nuisances were brought under your notice, to which I need not again refer. In the months of May and June I inspected all the mills in the township, to ascertain what steps had been taken by the masters, under the Factory

and Workshops Act, to provide a means of escape for their operatives in case of an outbreak of fire. I found four of the masters had already conformed to the Act, and provided escapes on the outside walls. In the case of those who had not made such provision, I reported on each one separately, giving the number of hands employed, the number of hands, male and female, working on each floor, and, in the event of fire, the possibilities of escape. I also mentioned the grave doubts I entertain regarding the utility and safety of such ladders in case of an emergency of the kind.

The slaughter and bakehouses have been frequently inspected. They are well kept, and the owners appear anxious that no nuisance should be caused by them, nor that they should in any way cause unpleasantness to those residing near them.

Since the removal of the knacker's yard last year, I have not been called on to inspect any "offensive process of trade carried on within the township."

Your Sanitary Inspector has supplied me with the following information :—

Sixteen new houses have been erected, and all drained into the main sewer. Six houses have been drained into a tank, which before discharged their sewage into an open ditch. Four new closets have been built to replace two that had almost fallen. Thirty-three houses have been put on the pail system. Forty-nine houses have been supplied with water-closets, where there were deep wet pits before. Thirteen houses have had water put in, where before they were dependent on rain water. Two hundred and sixteen houses have had new drains. Nineteen persons have been served with notice to abate nuisances. Two owners served with notice to

whitewash their cottages. One served with notice for overcrowding. Two persons served with notice to remove hens and ducks from their houses. 28,470 pails emptied and cleaned; 5,507 ashpits were emptied; 23 houses were disinfected by fumigation, and 26 parcels of bedding were disinfected in the hot-air chamber.

Forms A and B are attached. A retrospective survey of the year's sanitary work clearly shows that the condition of the township is being closely watched by those officials whose duty it is to look into all details connected with its hygienic advancement. I have endeavoured to keep myself in touch with all matters likely to influence the health of the district, and it shall be my aim in the future to do all in my power to advance the comfort and raise to a higher level the health of your township.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ROBERT TRIMBLE, M.D., F.R.C.S., D.P.H.

The Walton-le-Dale Urban District Council,
28th February, 1898.

NOTES ON TABLES A AND B.

NOTE 1. *Medical Officers of Health of "Combined Districts" must make a separate Return for the District of each District Council.*

2. *Medical Officers of Health acting for a portion only of the District of a District Council should write, in the heading of the Table, the designation of the Division for which they act.*

3. *The words "Urban," "Rural," or "Metropolitan" must be inserted in the appropriate space in the heading, according as the District is Urban or Rural, or is within the Metropolitan Area.*

4. The "*Localities*" adopted for the purpose of these statistics should be areas of known population ; such as parishes, groups of parishes, townships, or wards.

 As stated at the head of the first column in each Table, *Public Institutions* should be regarded as separate localities, and the deaths in them should be separately recorded. Workhouses, Hospitals, Infirmaries, Asylums, and other establishments into which numbers of people, and especially of sick people, are received are Public Institutions for the purpose of these statistics.

5. *The deaths which have to be classified in this Table* (A), and summed up in the horizontal line of "Totals," are the whole of those *registered* as having actually occurred in the several localities comprised within the Division or District. But the registered number of deaths frequently requires correction before it can give an exact view of the mortality of a Division or District ; and the two lowest horizontal lines are provided for the purpose of enabling Medical Officers of Health to indicate to the best of their ability what the extent of such corrections should be. Details concerning the corrective figures, *e.g.*, the institutions that have been considered, or the particular localities to which corrections apply, may appear in the text of the report or in supplementary tables.

Area and Population of the District or Division to which this Return relates.

Area in Acres, 4682a. 3r. 1p.

Population (1891) - 10,930.

Death Rates.	General, 19·47	per 1,000 Population, estimated to middle of 1896.
	Infant (under one year of age 210-06	per 1,000 Births Registered.

In recording the facts under the various headings of Tables A and B, attention has been given to the notes endorsed on the Tables.

ROBT. TRIMBLE, Medical Officer of Health.

(*Date*), 22nd February, 1898.

(A)—*TABLE OF DEATHS during the Year 1897, in the Urban Sanitary District of Walton-le-Dale, classified according to DISEASES, AGES, and LOCALITIES.*

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; public institutions being shown as separate localities (see note 4 on back of sheet) (Columns for Population and Births are in Table B)	*Mortality from all causes, at subjoined ages.*							*Mortality from subjoined causes, distinguishing Deaths of Children under Five Years of Age.*																						
													Fevers.																	
	At all ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.		Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.	Cholera.	Erysipelas.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhœa and Dysentery.	Rheumatic Fever.	Influenza.	Phthisis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia, & Pleurisy	Heart Disease.	Injuries.	All other Diseases.	TOTAL.
a	*b*	*c*	*d*	*e*	*f*	*g*	*h*	*i*	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
WALTON-LE-DALE URBAN DISTRICT..	213	71	27	3	11	57	32	Under 5	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	1	17	..	1	..	7	1	..	61	98
									..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
								5 upwards	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	2	..	1	12	18	12	8	59	115

(B) *TABLE OF POPULATION, BIRTHS, AND OF NEW CASES OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1897, in the Urban Sanitary District of Walton-le-Dale; classified according to DISEASES, AGES, and LOCALITIES.*

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; Public Institutions being shown as separate localities. (See Note 2 on back of sheet)	*Population at all ages.*		Registered Births.	Aged under 5 or over 5	*New Cases of Sickness in each Locality, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health.*													*Number of such Cases Removed from their Homes in the several Localities for treatment in Isolation Hospital.*												
									Fevers.													Fevers.								
	Census, 1891.	Estimated to middle of 1897.			Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.	Cholera.	Erysipelas.			Smallpox	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.	Cholera.	Erysipelas.		
a	*b*	*c*	*d*	*e*	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
WALTON-LE-DALE URBAN DISTRICT..	10556	10930	338	*	..	7	2	*	..	21	..	..	2	..	20	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

* Have no means of knowing the ages. Membranous Croup is not one of the Diseases to be certified.

State here whether "Notification of Infectious Disease" is compulsory in the District.—Yes. Since when?—1893. Besides the above-mentioned Diseases, insert in the columns with blank headings the names of any that are notifiable in the District, and fill the columns accordingly. State here the name of the Isolation Hospital used by the sick of the District. Mark (H) the locality in which such Hospital is situated; and if not within the District, state where it is situated.—The Bradkirk Hospital, in the District.

NOTES ON TABLE B.

(*See also Notes on back of Table A.*)

NOTE. 1. The present *Table B* is concerned with population, births, and sickness (not with mortality) in the sanitary district or division to which the Table relates.

2. As stated in the heading of Col. (*a*), *Public Institutions* should be regarded as separate localities, and the new cases of sickness in them should be separately recorded. Workhouses, Hospitals, Infirmaries, Asylums, and other establishments into which numbers of people, and especially of sick people, are received, are Public Institutions for the purpose of these statistics.

3. *Comments on any unequal incidence of Notifiable disease in the several localities, and considerations as to the local incidence of consumption and other prevalent diseases, should be made in the text of the Report.*

TABLE (C).

COUNTY OF LANCASTER.

Summary of Medical Officer's Report

FOR 1897.

URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT OF WALTON-LE-DALE.

Area in Statute Acres, 4,682 3r. 1.
Population (Census) 1891), 10,556.
Population, Estimated 1897, 10,930.

Name of Medical Officer of Health: Robert Trimble.

SALARY, £50.

Births registered: Male, 164; Female, 174; Total, 338.

Deaths registered: Male, 89; Female, 124; Total, 213.

Birth-rate 30·92. Death-rate, 19·47. Rate of Infant Deaths under one year, to 1,000 births, 210·06. Death-rate from the seven principal Zymotic Diseases, per 1,000 of population, 3·20.

Diseases prevalent? Measles, Typhoid, Diarrhœa. Period? Early months Measles; Typhoid all the year, Diarrhœa autumn. What action taken? Disinfectants, v.v. Any Schools Closed? One, Measles.

What is the character of Hospital Accommodation? Cottage Hospital, Eight Beds. Is it Joint or otherwise? No. No. of Beds available for the District? Eight. What were the Cases Treated? Typhoid Fever. Deaths in Hospital? One. From what cause? Typhoid Fever.

How is Disinfection carried out? The usual Disinfectant. Apparatus used? Hot Air Chamber.

Is the Infectious Disease (Notification) Act in force? Yes. Are any Diseases not specially mentioned in the Act notifiable? No.

SUMMARY CONTINUED.

What is the character of House Accommodation?	Cottage Houses
Has any action been taken under "The Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890"?	No
Have any houses condemned as unfit for human habitation been closed or demolished? If so, how many? ...	No
Is the Water Supply good and subject to your inspection?	Yes
Is Scavenging carried out satisfactorily?	Fairly
By Sanitary Authority or Contract?	Contract
How is the Refuse disposed of?	Manure
What is the character of Drainage and the form of Sewage Disposal? ...	Sewers, Tanks, Precipitation with Lime, afterwards with Ferri Sulph
Canal Boats?	Only an occasional one with manure
What is the condition of the Bakekouses? ...	In good order at all times
Slaughter-houses? ...	Like the above
Lodging Houses. Are they Registered? ...	None

SUMMARY CONTINUED.

Are the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milksheds periodically inspected? ...	Yes
Have any Regulations been made by your Authority under the Order of the Local Government Board? ...	This is under the consideration of Council
Have the Factories and Workshops been inspected, and with what result?	Yes
Food unfit for Human Consumption. Amount seized?	None
Any Special Report of Medical Officer of Health during the year? ...	Two
Department of Inspectors of Nuisances	No. of Notices served ... 24 No of Nuisances remedied 24 No. of Legal Proceedings taken and result None required
Smoke	No. of Observations ... None
Has the Authority adopted	
(*a*) "The Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890?" ...	Yes
(*b*) "The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890?" ...	Yes